

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5271

INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT ET

SUBJECT: PMAC CHAIRMAN'S SPEECH TO HARAR MILITARY ACADEMY GRADUATION

1. ETHIOPIAN HERALD OF JULY 6 CARRIED FULL TEXT OF SPEECH BY PMAC CHAIRMAN BG TEFERI BANTI TO 16TH GRADUATING CLASS OF HARAR MILITARY ACADEMY.

2. SPEECH CONTAINED USUAL THEMES, TAILORED TO THE OCCASION, VIZ., ETHIOPIA RESPECTS UNITY AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF OTHER COUNTRIES ON BASIS OF PRINCIPLES OF UN AND OAU CHARTERS AND EXPECTS RECIPROCITY; ETHIOPIA A PEACE LOVING NATION BUT READY TO SAFEGUARD ETHIOPIAN UNITY AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY; ARMED FORCES HAVE RESPONSIBILITY TO SAFEGUARD TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY AND EXECUTE DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN LINE WITH ETHIOPIAN SOCIALISM; CURRENT POPULAR MOVEMENT, SPEARHEADED BY ARMED FORCES AND SUPPORTED BY MASSES, IS BEGINNING TO YIELD ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL BENEFITS IN LINE WITH GOALS OF ETHIOPIAN SOCIALISM.

3. ONLY DEVIATION FROM STANDARD LINE IS PARAGRAPH BLAMING SUPERPOWERS FOR INFLUENCING GLOBAL ARMS RACE WHICH SERVES AS STUMBLING

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BLOCK TO PEACE AND SECURITY IN AFRICA. ALTHOUGH ETHIOPIA IS NOT

COMPLETELY FREE FROM THIS INFLUENCE, TEFERI SAID, HER PRESENT POLICY IS OPPOSED TO ARMS RACE. "IS THERE ANY WORSE INJUSTICE THAN GIVING HUNGER-STRICKEN PEOPLE BOMBS AND BULLETS INSTEAD OF BREAD AND WATER?"

4. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH REFERENCE PROBABLY IS TO SOVIET ARMING OF SOMALIA, THIS LAST PARAGRAPH CONTAINS MORE THAN A BIT OF IRONY TO THOSE FAMILIAR WITH ETHIOPIA'S HISTORY OF ARMS REQUESTS.
HUMMEL

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